



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Salmon Field Office  
1206 South Challis Street  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

<http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/salmon.html>



In Reply Refer To:  
6840

**FEB 16 2012**

David Kampwerth  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Eastern Idaho Field Office  
4425 Burley Dr.  
Chubbuck, ID 83202

Dear David:

Enclosed please find an Amendment to the *Biological Assessment (BA) for BLM Actions in the Canyon to Big Timber Watershed Assessment Area*, which was submitted to your office on September 16, 2011. This BA addressed the potential impacts to Snake River Chinook Salmon, Snake River Steelhead, Columbia River Bull Trout, designated critical habitats, Essential Fish Habitat, Canada Lynx, and Gray Wolf on a suite of livestock grazing permits, range improvement projects and vegetative treatment actions on Bureau of Land Management administered land within the Canyon to Big Timber (CBT) assessment area of the Lemhi River Section 7 Watershed.

We concluded consultation with your office on this BA with receipt of several letters of concurrence for the effects of these actions on Columbia River Bull Trout and designated critical habitat, dating October 12 to October 21, 2011. However, since completion of consultation, as a result of internal guidance and policy changes related to livestock grazing permit renewals and sage grouse habitat management, and efforts to address the Terms and Conditions of the draft NMFS biological opinions for the Jake's Canyon and Leadville Allotments, we have modified most of the proposed actions analyzed in the BA. The changes to the proposed actions range from purely formatting in how the numbers of animals and date ranges are presented on the permit, to reductions in livestock numbers, to changes in terms and conditions addressing use of riparian areas. We believe the changes result in either no change in effect of the action, or further reduce the potential for effects of the action.

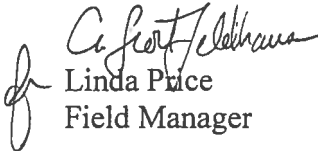
To address the changes in the proposed action as we progress towards finalizing the NEPA for the CBT proposed actions, we developed this Amendment in coordination with Doug Laye from

your office. The amendment presents the information allotment by allotment, identifies the proposed action(s) analyzed in the BA, describes the change (or lack thereof) in the action(s) as currently proposed, and discusses any change in potential effects to the environmental baseline. Each narrative also notes that there are no changes to any of the previously made determinations.

At this time, we are requesting that the Service review the changes detailed in our amendment, confirm that the changes do not alter the original effects determination that were subject to your previous letters of concurrence, and verify that this letter and amendment satisfy the BLM's responsibilities for consultation under section 7 of the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this amendment, please contact Jude Trapani at (208) 756-5475 ([jtrapani@blm.gov](mailto:jtrapani@blm.gov)), or Scott Feldhausen at (208) 756-5478 ([afeldhausen@blm.gov](mailto:afeldhausen@blm.gov)).

Sincerely,

  
Linda Price  
Field Manager

Enclosures